

Chatting...

with M. H. B.

IF YOU CHANCE to drive along the Speyside road, and turn up toward Limehouse, past the entrance to Dr. and Mrs. Paul Beer's farm, you'll see something unique and beautiful. It is a large arch, measuring eighteen feet across the bottom, constructed and painstakingly hand-carved and painted by Mrs. Beer.

"How did you ever manage to work on such a massive project", is the first question which occurred to us, after we had finished exclaiming over the perfection of carving detail and the bright reds, blues, yellows of the decorative motif. The answer to our query was that Mrs. Beer worked on the arch in sections. She started the archway in the spring of 1950, and it was just recently completed.

THE ARCH IS constructed mainly of white pine, although there is one piece of cypress in it, which, while it is considered a more durable wood, is nevertheless extremely hard to carve. The background for the brightly painted carving has been stained a rich brown with silligum, and makes a harmonious union between the archway and the Beer's lovely white and brown home.

THE INSTINCTIVE architectural style of the archway harmonizes with the house. Extending right across the top of the arch making a perfectly level heading, is a structure about a foot high, as nearly as we could judge, which in turn is topped by an extended peaked roof of matching stained shingles. This superstructure is also beautifully carved and painted, but it differs from the rest of the archway in that it has twenty round holes both front and back. The carvings here feature little birds — and yes, you've guessed it, — it is a hospitable invitation to forty bird families to set up house-keeping there.

IT IS A LITTLE difficult to write about a subject like this and keep it in perfect chronological order. As a matter of fact, while visiting Dr. and Mrs. Beer, we saw so many interesting things that our notes are a regular jumble

LOVELIES ON WHEELS AT BRAMPTON ARENA



—Conservator photo.
Enjoying an evening's roller skating at Brampton Memorial Arena, these three charming young ladies were photographed recently by a Conservator cameraman. They are, left to right, Daibh Tite, Brampton, Mrs. Frank Murfin, Georgetown, and Dorothy Edwards, Brampton. The sport has proven so popular in Brampton that there is now skating three times weekly, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. There have been 150 to 200 skaters on hand every night to date.

and you'll have to forgive us if we hop from one topic to another. To go back to the colourful carvings on the archway. Perhaps the main and most striking

unit of carving is located centrally on each upright of the archway, and in it we observed a Holstein cow and several turkeys. These figures represent the two main phases of business carried on at the Beer farm. Dr. Beer, in the little time he has to spare from business duties in Acton and Aurora, supervises the raising of a prize-winning Holstein herd, and Mrs. Beer in addition to working very hard at her artistic hobbies, raises and looks after a flock of 2200 Bronze Broad Breasted turkeys.

WE WERE interested in seeing the turkeys too. Looking at the flock of seven week olds, we were fascinated by the rather odd looking appendages on either side of their "noses". Never having seen a real live turkey, young or old, up so close before, we hesitated to ask about them. But when Dr. Beer thrust some greens through the netting for them, and we saw the fierce and noisy competition for a morsel, Mrs. Beer explained that the rings had just been put through their noses that week, in order to prevent them from inflicting serious injuries on each other when they fought. The ring goes through the "nose" and extends underneath the upper part of the beak, so that it cannot be completely closed.

DR. AND MRS. Beer claim Hungary as their native land, and such an archway as theirs is frequently seen there. Also in their Halton County home. Mrs. Beer has, with her carvings and paintings brought a great deal of old country charm. Sipping a cup of coffee in the breakfast-sunroom, we had time to appreciate what beauty painting talent and originality can bring to a room. The ceiling of this particular room consisted of large square mosaics. Mrs. Beer had painted flowers on each one so that when they were inlaid on the ceiling with raised molding separating each unit, the overall design was very lovely, as well as each square being a pretty painting in its own right. Centering this beautiful ceiling is a bright blue chandelier made from a small wagon wheel, with lights installed at the end of each spoke. On the wall we noted a brightly painted Hungarian double wall shelf, filled with colourful antique milk jugs from their native land. No two were shaped alike, and all were very graceful with their narrow necks for the cream and the full round base for the milk. The table and chairs had also been hand-painted with pretty designs. The whole effect is delightful.

AND IT IS the same throughout the entire house. Mrs. Beer's artistry lends touches of beauty wherever one looks. Mentioning only two or three of the more unusual works of art, we'd like to tell you about the two very large paintings which had an effect of unusual depth. It didn't seem to us, this could have been created with

oil paint alone, so we finally succumbed to curiosity and asked about it. We found they had been painted on wall-board, rather than a more conventional medium. The texture had interested Mrs. Beer and with it she has created, two very striking pictures.

Using another unusual medium for her painting, Mrs. Beer had made two lovely "tapestry-type" wall paintings, from bran bags. One composition is entitled "Spring" and the other, "Summer".

WE ALSO SAW several exquisitely sculptured figures made of wood. The most massive figured weighted three hundred pounds. It's a very nearly life size shepherd carrying a lamb. The sculpture is made from basswood, and we can well believe that the original block of wood must have been enormous. And a lot of really hardwork goes into the carving of such a figure. The carving is done with gauge and chisels.

Mrs. Beer is a graduate of the Budapest School of Art. And as you have probably gathered, is interested in, and talented at, nearly all phases of her profession. We almost forgot to mention that she has also done some very clever commercial layout with accompanying advertising.

BOTH DR. AND Mrs. Beer are interested in beautifying their home, outside as well as inside. The grounds about their home are lovely. In spite of the tragic fire a few years ago which destroyed their original home with most of their beloved preplaceable treasures from Hungary, they have created another house, which thro' their work and planning, has really become "home". Standing on the steps of the rock garden, just prior to leaving we were admiring the countryside, and Dr. Beer, pointing to the towering green loveliness of a majestic elm by the roadside, remarked that in their travels they had seen many strange and exotic trees and landscapes, but each time they come home and look at that tree and the lushness of our countryside, they look at each other and say "This, this is the best". And they are good judges of the beautiful.

MR. AND MRS. Fred Webb and sons Michael and Tony left Tuesday for several weeks holiday in England. Their bake-shop will be closed during their absence. The Webb family are sailing from Montreal on the "Columbia" and will visit with both Mr. and Mrs. Webb's families in Scarborough, Yorkshire. Chatting with Mrs. Webb, she told us it has been fourteen years since she and her husband have been "home", and needless to say, both are very anxious to see their families. They will return on the 10th of September.

MR. AND MRS. David Hurren, who have recently moved

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—down from their farm, near led on Mr. E. Wood to... Osprings, were honoured by their dress and Mrs. Arnold... neighbours and friends at a present-ed Mr. and Mrs. Hurren... tation a week ago Friday, held at a well-filled purse. After... Cedarvale School, Osprings. On entator dancing was... this occasion Mr. Alvin Fisher call a beautiful lunch served

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